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June 24, 1997

Mrs Charles Hopkins
625 S. Cook Road
Meridian, MS 39301

Dear Ms. Hopkins:

I really enjoyed our conversation. Below is an outline of my work, a copy of the photograph, a "release" to publish the photo and some other information you might be interested in.

The picture of *Joseph D. Stroud*, a soldier of the 13th Miss. Inf. Regt. is in the Carlisle Barracks History Institute. I sent off and purchased a copy of it to include in my research of the 13th. I call it research as opposed to a book primarily because of the format. My goal was to research and record the best regimental history ever done. And to include, as part of that history the final period of the mens lives after the war until their deaths. For many years I have been researching the 13th Mississippi Infantry Regiment a part of Gen. William Barksdale's Brigade, belonging to Major General Lafayette McLaw's Division, of Longstreet's Corps, in Army of Northern Virginia.

The research data starts prior to the Civil war in May 1861, some two months before the first battle (Bull Run) and follows them as a unit and as 1,326 individuals until the death of the last man. The research follows them from the dates of their enlistment, through the war, the journey back home, involvement in after war activities such as participation in Veteran and civic organizations, letters written, pension applications, newspaper articles, illnesses, deaths, burials and obituaries and survivors.

The data on the Regiment is extremely focused and detailed. It is in chronological format and consists almost entirely of *information provided by the people who witnessed the activities through their letters, diaries and recollections*. The "creative" writing is minimal and primarily used to "bridge" situations and in some cases "explain" incidents not readily apparent to the reader.

The photographs are all scanned into the computer and can be inserted into the document any place electronically.

Some of the information included is:

- * about 2000 pages (1,000,000 words).
- * the formation of each company and the locations of enlistments.
- * Names and home towns of the men.
- * all known National Archive records of every man that served in this regiment,
- * all individual medical records, pay vouchers, Prisoner of War records
- * extensive amounts of information of relatives (mothers, fathers and siblings) and descendants,
- * unpublished diary of a member of the regiment.

- * written and unpublished recollections of numerous men.
- * claims for pay, bounty and uniform allowances.
- * unpublished photographs of 19 original the members and a number of photographs of their wives and relatives,
- * burial site locations recorded contemporaneously by companions,
- * 60 unpublished letters by members written during the war
- * numerous letters written after the war recalling thier experiences.
- * copies of letters written years later by relatives to the National Archives inquiring about the men.
- * All Confederate Veteran Magazine records relating to this regiment,
- * All "Official Records of the War of the Rebellion" (Called "OR") related to this regiment.
- * data from the original records and documents in the National Archives.
- * Names and addresses of numerous descendants of the men of this regiment.
- * information on some 500 pension applications.
- * many obituaries.
- * applications for state Pensions in Miss. and Texas

To give you a better feel for the work, let me tell you of an experience I had. About 20 years ago when I was first starting on this work, I joined the "Confederate Veterans" which is a subscription of sorts to folks who are interested in the Civil War. The sec/treas for some 45 years was William D. McCain. I corresponded with him personally some. Later, I moved from N.J. back to Texas. On one of my trips I wanted to meet and thank McCain for his help as I was in Miss. doing some research. I called him and made an appointment. McCain was formerly in the National Archives, a General in OSS (a forerunner to CIA), Archivist for Mississippi, History Professor, History Dept Head, and President Emeritus of University of Souther Miss. So.....with those credentials I felt I had to show him that I was a serious researcher. I took a complete printout of all my book at that time. I asked him to spend a few minutes looking thorough it,. He flipped pages stopped and read, flipped, read and on for about 15/20 minutes. When he finished, he looked up and said "this is the most remarkable research that I have ever seen." And that comment by a man of his atature was good enough for me, it certainly made my day.

Two years ago I called one well known Civil War Publishing company and spoke to the owner. After telling him what my work was composed of he asked me if I knew how many men were listed in the average Regimental history, I said no and he told me it was less than 100. In my regimental history I have 1,326 documented members and probably 200 members of their immediate family members. He also told me that a major benefit of this type of research was the fact that it fits into several categories ie: Civil War, Genealogy, Reference, General History, and Mississippi State history. Obviously this makes it a much more "saleable" product.

I made some preliminary contact with some publishers and they have expressed an interest in publication. One has made an offer with contract details.

The records that I have on STROUDS are:

Stroud, Jesse D., Pvt.-3^d Corp., Co. G; Born Alabama; Farmer; Pierces Springs; Single; age 23; Enlisted April 27, 1861 at Quitman; Present and unhurt at the Battles of 1st Manassas and Leesburg; Promoted to 3^d Corporal about January 1862; Present and unhurt at the Battles of Savage Station, Malvern Hill, Maryland Heights, Sharpsburg and 1st & 2^d Fredericksburg; Absent Furlough Gettysburg; Present and unhurt at the Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga; Captured at Knoxville, assault of Fort Loudon; Sent to Louisville December 29, 1863; From thence to Rock Island January 6, 1864; Transferred for Exchange March 2, 1865; No other information.

Stroud, Joseph Dewitt, Pvt.-1st Corp.-Pvt., Co. K; Born Mississippi; Farmer; Stonewall; Single; age 21;

Enlisted May 25, 1861 at Union City; Present and unhurt at the Battles of 1st Manassas and Leesburg; Detailed on Special Duty at Hospital September-October 1861; Appointed 1st Corporal April 26, 1862; Absent Detail Garnett's Farm, Savage Station and Malvern Hill; Returned to the ranks about September 1862; Absent Detail as a Nurse General Hospital Camp Winder Richmond Maryland Heights, Sharpsburg and 1st Fredericksburg; Slightly Wounded and Captured May 3, 1863 at the Battle of 2^d Fredericksburg; Sent to Old Capitol Prison May 7, 1863; Received at City Point May 23, 1863; Killed in action the 2nd days' fight at Gettysburg[July 2, 1863]; Buried on the Field; George Stroud of Meridian, Father and claimant.

Strowd, Asbury M., Pvt.-2^d Corp.-4th Sgt.-Pvt., Co. G; Born Wilcox County, Alabama; Farmer; Pierces Springs; Single; age 21; Enlisted April 27, 1861 at Quitman; Entered the Confederate States service as 2^d Corporal May 12, 1861 at Corinth; Promoted to 5th Sgt. June 4, 1861; Present and unhurt at the Battles of 1st Manassas and Leesburg; Promoted to 4th Sgt.. about January 1862; Discharged for Disability/Chronic Diarrhea March 28, 1862 at Rapidan; Reenlisted October 12, 1862; Present and unhurt at the Battles of 1st & 2^d Fredericksburg and Gettysburg; Absent Sick Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Campbell's Station and Knoxville, assault of Fort Loudon; Present and unhurt at the Battles of Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor and Petersburg; Admitted to General Hospital No. 9 Richmond August 6, 1864; Transferred to General Hospital Howard's Grove August 7, 1864; Sick Furlough to Quitman August 27, 1864 for 60 days; 5' 11"; Fair complexion; Blue eyes; Light hair; Absent Sick Berryville, Charlestown, Rockfish Gap and Cedar Creek; Record Remarks March 2, 1865 "A good soldier in Camp or field".

Hope you find this helpful and interesting. Anything you could send me as to information would be helpful.

I hope you will sign and return the Photo Release so I can include it in the publication.

If you have any questions - call me.

Thanks

Jess N. McLean

13thJLQuinnelly.wpd

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Jul 28, 1997

Patsy Cook Hopkins
625 S. Cook Road
Meridian, MS 39301

Re: Other Pictures On Your Wall

Dear Mrs. Hopkins:

I have received copies of what I believe to be duplicates of the other two pictures that hang on your wall.

The picture of the single person, a young lady facing viewers left has curly/wavy short dark hair, parted in the middle, prominent/strong jaw, frilly white collar over a dark dress, with a tight dark thin neck band. Looks to be 25-35 years old.

The picture of the couple:

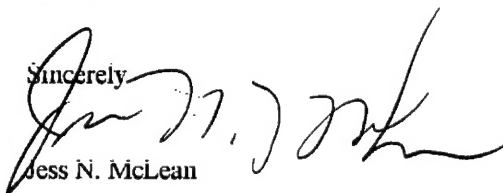
The man on the right side, left hand on hip and arm akimbo, right hand on right leg, double breasted heavy dark topcoat, buttoned up high on chest, grey haired and slightly balding possibly in his 60's.

The woman on the left, dark hair parted in the middle and pulled back tight over the ears, right hand in her lap, palm down, dark tunic type of blouse/jacket 4 buttons, buttoned up high to neck, white border undershirt type showing around neck above tunic. There appears to be three flat pillows/cushions on his chair arm between them.

If this seems to be those in your pictures, let me know and I will get the names of who they are and how they are related if any relationship exists..

Also if you have time and still wish me to publish the picture of Joseph Dewitt Stroud then sign and return the release.

Sincerely,


Jess N. McLean

13thHopkins02.wpd



Joseph Dewitt Stroud

Born 1840 - Killed in Action at Gettysburg July 2, 1863



May 26, 1861 Joseph Dewitt Stroud, volunteers and is enrolled into Co K, of the 13th Miss. Inf. Regiment at Lauderdale County by Capt. R. J. Randall. He states that he was born in Miss., a farmer, and he lived near Stonewall, was single and 21 years old. By July 4, 1861 he is at Camp Barksdale near Union City, Tenn. Two and a half weeks later on July 21 1861 with practically no training, he participates in the First Battle at Manassas.

From July 24 until August 28, 1861 he is in the Charlottesville hospital, sick. In September 1861 he is detailed to special duty at hospital in Leesburg, Va. On Oct. 21, 22, 1861 he is present in the battle at Leesburg, Va.

On April 26, 1862 he is promoted to 1st Corporal. From May 5, 1862 until January 1863 he serves as a nurse in hospital. By January 1863 he is back with his Regiment and on May 3, 1863 he is wounded and captured at Fredericksburg, Va. After being a prisoner for a short time he is exchanged and returns to the Regiment. He goes on the long march with the 13th Miss. Regiment to Gettysburg where on July 2, 1863 about 5 pm he is killed in the charge. His companions bury him on the field where he died.

On December 02, 1863 his father, George Stroud in Lauderdale County, Miss., applied for the pay due his son. George Stroud asked that the money be mailed to Meridian, Miss.

Data researched by Jess N. McLean Irving, Tx. 972-259-3112



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**Patsy Cook Hopkins,
625 S. Cook Road
Meridian, MS 39301**

August 7, 1997

Dear Mrs Hopkins:

Here are the copies of the photos I have and the relative birth and death dates. I hope you find them useful.

Thank you for the release and the newspaper clipping. Do you know the date of the newspaper article and what newspaper it was published in?

Sincerely


Jess N. McLean

13thHopkins03.wpd

JNM/hpc

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Left: Sarah Stroud Potter born 1841, died 1875, sister of Joseph Dewitt Stroud.

Center: Elvira Clinton Stroud born 1841, died 1875, Mother of Joseph Dewitt Stroud.

Right: George Washington Stroud born 1812, died 1888, father of Joseph Dewitt Stroud.

13thStroudFam.psd